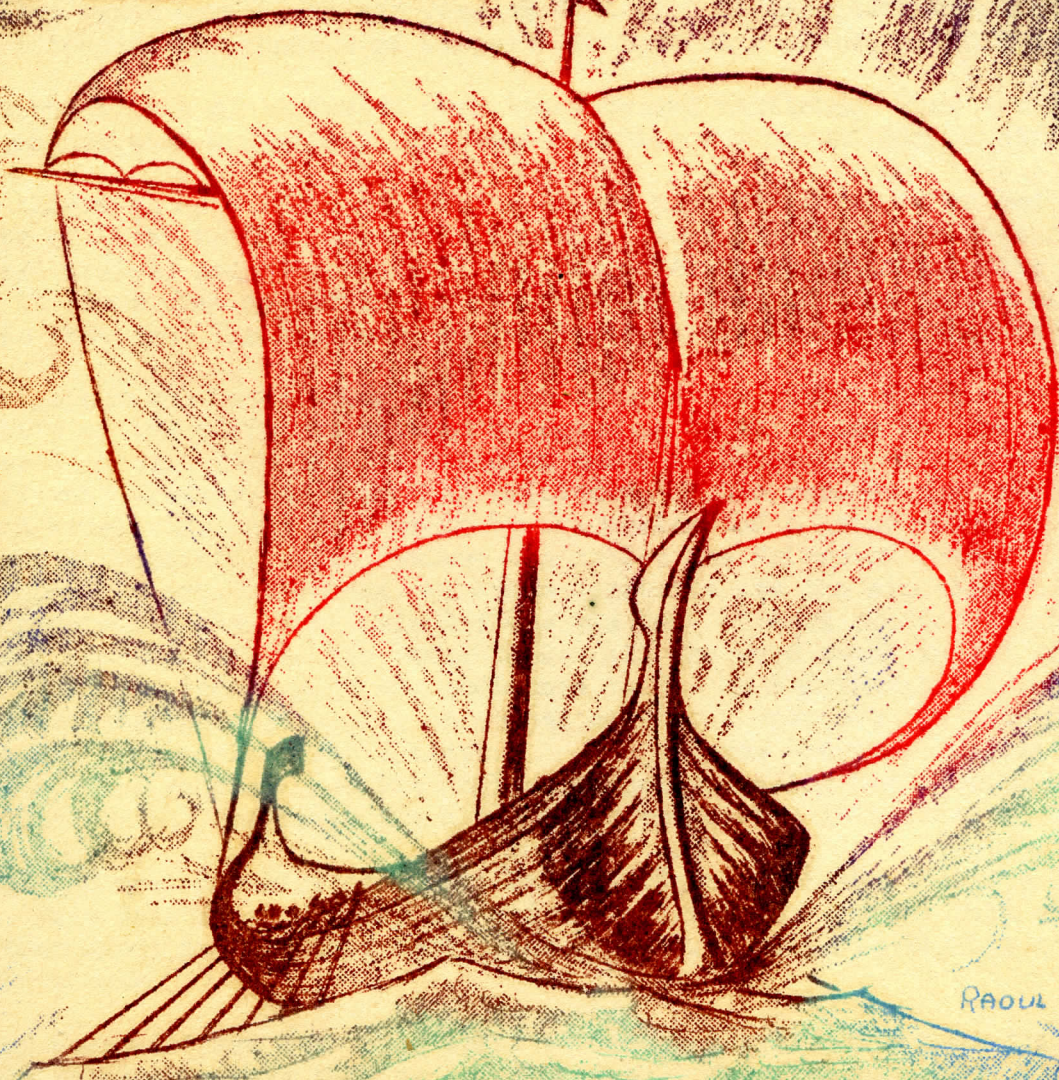


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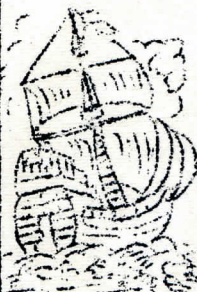
THE GREAT ADVENTURE



GERALD LIGHT



THE GREAT ADVENTURE



HUMANITY LIVES UPON THE CRYSTALLIZED CRUST OF A GIGANTIC BALL OF FIRE. Four-fifths of the surface of this immense globe of molten metal is covered with water. At two diametrically opposite points of the globe, called "Poles," there are vast wildernesses of ice in which "life" of any kind is considered impossible. Periodically, about every six months, a terrible change takes place in one half of the globe. It is called the "Time of Snow." Great suffering is experienced by the human-creatures living in the areas exposed to the Time of Winter. Disease, sickness, death and vast suffering accompany the changes of temperature upon this globe, called the Seasons.

The creatures of this globe number over two thousand millions. They are divided in to many branches, each speaking a different language and worshipping a different God.

There are almost as many ideas of "God" as there are individual human beings. The inhabitants of Earth, as this planet is called, frequently mass into huge congregations, called armies, and make conflict against other congregations. This is called "War." It seems that no particular reason is required for the making of a War, as the records show that War has been an almost perpetual condition among these people.

The most vigorous and devastating Wars seem to have been those which were waged over the inability of the different nations to agree as to which one had the most important God, or Creator. Each Race or Religion seems to be convinced that they each have a different Creator, or Source of Existence. The records show that the most vicious and cruel wars have been waged by the members of a group which worshipped one called Jesus of Nazareth. This Teacher was called The Prince of Peace. His Message was built upon the principle that all human creatures are the creations of the same God. He proclaimed also that this God was the Soul of each creature; and that therefore no Soul was superior to any other Soul. All men were equal in the sight of the One God. For this teaching He was condemned to die as a criminal. Since His death there have been terrible struggles to compel all human creatures to join His Church and accept Him as ones Personal Saviour. The records show that He did not found a church; and that He cautioned His followers against making Him a Deity---since the Father-within was the One Deity Who alone could redeem the Individual Soul.

The richest and most powerful of modern Earth nations considers itself a Christian country. Vast donations of money and materials are being sent by this great nation to many other lands needing this assistance greatly. This is rightly considered a Christian attitude.

Billions of money-dollars are being spent to create terrifically powerful weapons to destroy the people they are feeding and clothing. These weapons are said to be so vast in their destructive power that they can wipe all human, animal and vegetable life from the planet. One wonders why it is necessary to feed and clothe persons who are to be shortly blown into atomic dust. The Earthlings are very peculiar.

AND THUS MIGHT A VISITOR FROM VENUS, MARS, JUPITER OR ONE OF THE ILLUMINED PLANETS PUT down his impressions were he to observe us and our history from his superior level of consciousness and spiritual awareness. And thousands of pages could be thus written, each entirely true and accurate---insofar as a superficial or casual observation of our Earth and its peoples and projects could reveal them to other planets.

Yet how many of those who may read this amusing page could do much better when it comes to clearly and intelligently explaining the meaning and purpose BEHIND all the many things that make up our life on this globe???

Do YOU know the answer to the multitudinous activities of earthly life? Do You KNOW, actually know, WHY we do any of the things we take so casually, take for granted that there is, or must be, a sensible reason and purpose behind them---somewhere??

WHAT, actually, do you KNOW of life? Do you know why you are here now? Do you know where you have come from? Do you know where you are going when you leave here? Do you know why you are in your present place and position---instead of in a better, a happier, wealthier, wiser one? Do you know why you have had to experience all the many cycles of pain and sorrow (as well as happiness and joy) which life has brought?

Have you ever stopped to realize that there are millions and millions of OTHER worlds, each having Humanities and nations upon them? Each having great Sciences and Cultures, mighty kingdoms of power and perfection---vastly beyond anything we have ever dreamed on our tiny little globe?

Have you ever thought of this as you looked up into the sky on some midsummer night? High above you, directly overhead in midsummer, is the Constellation of Hercules. You can see this only as a tiny dot of white, no bigger than a pinhead. Yet that little dot of light contains over fifty thousand suns. Each one of these suns is BIGGER, so much bigger than our own sun---and contains its family of planets whirling about it!! And all of this is so far away it looks no bigger than a tiny dot of starry light!!

It has been said that our Earth globe, in comparison to the billions of other globes whirling furiously through the heavens, our Earth is like ONE grain of sand on ALL the sea-shores of the world. One grain of sand, amongst billions of trillions!

These are figures which we cannot comprehend except in a highly remote and vague way. But do they not strike into your little human conceits and vanities with a devastating blow that makes you realize how much you must depend upon your God, upon your own Cosmic Creator to sustain you in such awful realizations, such bewildering perceptions of the gigantic aspect of Life?

And perhaps it will force you to realize that there MUST be a magnificent Plan and Purpose within and behind all of this stupendous cosmic manifestation. Perhaps it will compel you to admit that the little things which have seemed so important, because they concerned you personally, these things are not really so important, or so very necessary for you, for your comfort, your happiness, your peace of mind.

If such a devastating illustration helps to lift your vision up to the Stars, and to The Supreme Glory within them--of Whom you are a part--then it will be the beginning of a new and more abundant personal life for you. For there IS a Perfect Plan for every one of the Planets. And there is a Perfect Plan and Purpose for EVERY ONE of the Souls upon those Planets.

THERE IS A PERFECT PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR YOU. IT WAS INTENDED THAT YOU SHOULD HAVE IT IN THE VERY BEGINNING OF YOUR CREATED CONSCIOUSNESS. DO YOU HAVE IT NOW?

NO PERSON WITH ANY INTELLIGENCE COULD POSSIBLY LOOK UP INTO THE SKY AND PERCEIVE THE supreme glory of those worlds and stars and suns---and fail to KNOW that there IS a superhuman Power and Wisdom, an almighty Authority and Consciousness guiding and sustaining those millions of blazing jewels. Neither can the intelligent thinker fail to understand that there IS this same Power and Wisdom guiding and sustaining every human soul upon our little planet.

But what this thinker may fail to understand is that the Supreme Authority for all of the Cosmic Constellations is actually dwelling right here within our own Souls, now. For, he will reason, if this is true, why is it that there is so much imperfection, so much error---so much that is apparently not of, or from, God? How can God be present with us, within us, and we still produce little else than error and death? What is responsible for our present highly imperfect, unsatisfactory and ignorant existence? If there is a Perfect Plan for each of us, why do we not have it, and use it to free ourselves of the miseries and tribulations of human life?

The answer to all these questions is very simple. So simple, in fact, that if it is stated in plain terms it will not be understood. It will seem too simple to be true!

To understand this answer in all its beautiful simplicity let us briefly examine the records of those attempts of the Great Thinkers, the Divine Teachers, to present the same explanation. Every religion, philosophy, creed or sect that has attained any measure of popular acceptance and approval, each teaching has pointed to a state of Perfection which we enjoyed with our Creator-in-Heaven. There have been minor variations in all of these religions, but they have all agreed upon one thing; In the Beginning we were One-with-God. We were at one with our Source. And in this Oneness we had everything our Source, our Creator, our God had, and expressed. We knew nothing save the Glory and Perfection of our Divinity.

But we did not know ourselves as Selves---for we had no Individual Natures, no separate souls. We were as unconscious of ourselves as separate beings in the same way as the fish in the seas and the birds in the air. We were one with the Universal Mind, and knew nothing save the complete perfection of the Great Logos, the Immortal God, who was holding us within Himself as we now hold the billions of cells within our human forms.

Upon this point every religion and philosophy is in complete agreement. To the Christian it is often a shock to learn that there are many Holy Books written ages before the Bible---and in much more detail, which give a remarkably account of those conditions previous to our Personal Creation and the Cycles of Evolution immediately following our Descent into Substance or Materiality.

It is easy to accept the statement that there is a Perfect Plan for every cell of our physical bodies, for we MUST have order and perfection in them, individually, before we can have order and harmony in the completed flesh body. And it seems the greatest good sense that Nature (or God) should have arranged specific principles and laws to take care of the activities of our bodies and their many different organs. No one is ever able to question either the need for this plan, or its actual existence. We KNOW it has to be. And therefore we are at peace about it.

AND AS WE ARE, EACH ONE OF US, CELLS IN THE SUPREME BODY OF NATURE, OR GOD, IT FOLLOWS WITH INESCAPABLE LOGIC THAT THERE MUST BE A PERFECT PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR EACH ONE OF US. FOR OTHERWISE IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLETE, AND MAINTAIN, THE ABSOLUTE PERFECTION OF THE FATHER-IN-HEAVEN.

And this tremendous Truth instantly reveals itself to the serious thinker: It is absolutely imperative for the completion of the Divine Plan for Humanity that YOUR OWN Plan and Purpose shall be brought to a successful and abundant fulfillment. Each one of us must be completed in perfection before The Divine Source can be fulfilled in us.

THE GREAT NEBULAE IN THE HEAVENS MAY BE TAKEN AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE CONDITION OF perfect Oneness with God which we experienced in those aeons before we were projected into Self-Consciousness and confined within the pattern of a human body. When the nebula is photographed by one of the high-powered telescopes it is seen to be a vast collection of blazing star-dust moving about a luminous Center. It is Pure Light, or Pure Consciousness, Pure Bliss. We cannot imagine nor understand what sort of Consciousness or Life the Spirit moving through the great nebula may be experiencing. It is beyond our comprehension, since it is infinite---and we are finite creatures.

When God wishes to bring forth a planet and people it with beings that are "the image of Himself" He "moves upon the Face of the Deep" and projects Himself into the fiery substance of eternity, the Nebulae. One cannot comprehend the time which this requires (for actually it may be accomplished in a flash and yet seem to be aeons of ages to our sense of time and dimension) but eventually specific forms are seen to be moving in the great fiery clouds. Vast and gigantic images which resemble spectres more than creatures of solid matter. As millions of ages pass, or seem to pass, we observe the rudiments of evolutionary life somewhat as it has been described to us by modern scientific writers. Eventually human-like forms appear upon the gradually cooling crust of the fiery globe, and the supreme symphony of life begins a new theme.

More and more these Children of the Flame become locked within the crystallizing substance of the ancient star-dust, and the cosmic plan for personal evolution and individual awareness goes forward to the point where the Faculty of Sense is bestowed upon the developing humans. In every religion these same steps are clearly and exactly presented. And then the great and final step is reached which permits these Children of God to leave their Edenic Paradise and wander far afield in "strange lands!"

It was at this point that we forgot the Divine Pattern and Plan and fell into error. And from this period we have gone forward into greater and greater error and darkness until we find ourselves lost in the morass of the senses and bound to the wheel of death and rebirth.

The thinker at this point questions the Teacher: How have we forgotten our Divine Natures? By losing ourselves in the subtle illusions of the senses (sense-ations). And how was this possible for a Child of the Flame? We mistook our senses and the reactions of our senses for our true selves. We became lost in the garment of the flesh, thinking ourselves to be the body---forgetting that we were, and forever are, the Eternal, Immortal Spirit.

In having won the great boon of personal awareness, of individual consciousness, we have forgotten our former condition of perfect oneness with our Father-in-Heaven. We have produced a psychological sense of separateness. We have accepted it as true. And that which we accept as Truth, becomes so to us. In reality we are still united with the Supreme Deity Who created us as the Light is united forever with the Sun. It is the same Light which fills all the rooms of the mansion, yet the mind, the being of each room imagines itself a separate entity. And so it suffers the fate of all that is separate from its Source. It believes the walls of the room to be its own kingdom, its personality. And that which it believes becomes Truth to it. When the Light leaves the room, and follows the Sun AS IT MUST, the personality of the room dies. It vanishes and dissolves, leaving no trace behind---as men and women have vanished again and again down the ages of ages.

The Light in us must unite with its true Source, the Father-in-Heaven. And then it shall be able to build the Immortal Personality, the Supreme Individual Who never may know death, or error; Who abides in radiant perfection with His Supreme Creator-Self.

And having once known the Perfect Plan for uniting with our Source, and having once been a part of that Supreme Source, our task is now a joyous one of re-discovering the Perfect Plan and Pattern for our Individual Evolution and Immortalization.

THE FOUR ETERNAL QUESTIONS:

1. WHO AM I?
2. FROM WHERE HAVE I COME?
3. WHY AM I HERE?
4. WHERE AM I GOING?

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1. WHO AM I? WHAT AM I? THESE ARE QUESTIONS EVERY INTELLIGENT PERSONS WILL ASK HIMSELF many, many times as he faces the problems of life and endeavors to reach some solution to them. No one else can tell you WHO you are. Many statements can be made in answer to this question, but they will never be more than theoretical answers. For the thing that you are is a thing that is constantly changing. You are not today the same being you were yesterday. Nor will you, tomorrow, be the same as you are today. And this is not a play on words. It is an eternal Truth. The only changeless thing about you is the truth that you will be in constant change. This is one of the Great Keys which you will later use to unlock many mysteries of your Occult Nature. It can be said that you are Spirit, Mind, Life, Energy, Matter and so on. But these are relative ideas which will be in a constant state of flux--and never twice convey the same meaning to you. The Great Teachers tell us we will never know WHO we are for we are in a constant state of Be-Coming. What you were at the age of six was something quite different than what you were at twelve. At twenty-four you are certainly something you were not, could not be, at twelve or sixteen. This Be-Coming goes on forever. It is part of The Great Adventure of Spirit through Matter.

2. FROM WHERE HAVE I COME? This question is related to the first, as indeed so is the third and fourth, and must be studied with it. There will be a time in your own individualization of Consciousness when you will comprehend Great Cosmic Principles as clearly as you now comprehend, and use, the Alphabet. But there was a time when the letters, and the words they composed, were meaningless jumbles of strange markings. We can use letters and words to say that you have come from the Infinite Spirit of Eternal Mind and Cosmic Realities. But this may or may not have much meaning to you--for it will depend upon how much study you have made of the mysterious world of Abstract-Being called the Absolute. The gentle little bird in its golden cage can sing simple melodies, and perhaps understand them. But it can know nothing of the highly complex abstractions of musical theory which have produced our magnificently melodious symphonies, operas, concertos. So too may we know a little of God, and use His Infinite Principles; but until we have ascended the Great Arc of Divine Evolution to a higher point we can not KNOW the supreme glories of His Eternal Cosmic Kingdoms.

3. WHY AM I HERE? You are here to complete the Perfect Pattern of your Individualization as a Self-Conscious Unit of the Supreme Mind of the Absolute. At least, this is the sort of statement we can all read in hundreds of books. But does it mean so very much to us? Until we have a deep and comprehensive grasp of WHO WE ARE, can we possibly have much understanding of WHY we are here?

4. WHERE AM I GOING? This last question must be answered in conjunction with those other three. It is useless to spend words in a futile effort to comprehend meanings which cannot be contained in words, however brilliantly they may be put together.

Yet we need not be discouraged by the baffling peculiarity of these questions. For much can be learned about them, and much practical information is available for the intelligent exploitation of these seeming mysteries. There is a vast catalogue of scientific and technical information which often amazes the thinker when he first comes in touch with what may accurately be called the University of the Absolute. And it will be our pleasure to discuss some of these highly practical systems of wisdom and ancient knowledge which have carried so many civilizations to their glory.

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ONE OF THE MOST FREQUENT OBJECTIONS TO THE STUDY OF METAPHYSICS IS THE CHARGE THAT IT is impractical and visionary, that it deals with intangibles and abstractions and is not therefore, good business, good sense. This is quite true. Metaphysics does deal with intangibles and abstractions. But this objection is not valid, for as we shall show---everything in human life deals with intangibles and abstractions.

The charge that Metaphysics is not good sense, good business; that Occult-Study is impractical and visionary---these assertions are purest nonsense based upon ignorance and the crudest kind of primitive thinking.

Metaphysics deals with first principles. It takes us to the very foundations of all life and action. It begins at the Beginning and takes us through a series of consecutive and related steps up to the highest plane of Individualized Consciousness and Personalized SelfExpression. Metaphysics leads us from ignorance to Illumination; from darkness to Light, from old age and death to Eternal Youth and Immortal Life. And in doing all of these magnificent things it may (but not necessarily) it may require from us a voluntary acceptance of ideas, principles and projects which, at first glance, seem to be considerably remote from any immediate practical use or result. But this requirement is only a seemingly impractical one, for the field of Life and Action is so vast that, in the beginning, no one of us can possibly comprehend the magnificently usable knowledge and experience that will, eventually, be ours---if we follow through faithfully with the first strange and apparently unrelated aspects.

Metaphysics is a Science. It is the Mother of all Sciences and the Father of all Knowledges. All wisdom, skill, experience, learning, everything comes from the same one and infinite Source---Metaphysics. Everything that we have in human life today comes from those ancient well-springs of pre-historic Knowledge preserved for us by unknown Scholars and Thinkers in Their great Temples of Learning.

In the ancient days there were no churches on one hand and colleges and universities near by. The university was the temple; and the temple was the place of Knowledge. No distinction was then made between religious and philosophical knowledge. Religion was a philosophy; and philosophy was a religion. Nor was there any distinction ever made between spiritual knowledge and material learning, for in those wonderful days Mankind realized that there was but One Source of Knowledge and Learning. In those days the college professor was also a priest and philosopher. The rulers of the land were philosopher-warriors. And there were also "hard-headed business-men," and "realistic materialists." But none of these people would have dreamed of considering a study, and application, of the basic principles of Life as "visionary" as "impractical" as not good business, because they required the use of intangibles and abstractions!

The illumined Student of today must repress a smile when he hears these smug, self-satisfied characters dismiss Metaphysics as delusions of old women and visionary fools dabbling in intangible nonsense. The Student knows that there is not a single thing in the business of the financier, the capitalist, the self-made man---which is not based upon an abstraction, a belief, a faith. The very idea of money itself is a vast theory (which collapses regularly) resting upon a universal faith in the use of credit. The use of our machines, the radio, television, airplanes, everything is possible only because the inventors believed in invisible, intangible forces. The very life in the body of the materialist is an intangible abstraction which may vanish with his next breath. No skeptic has ever seen the organs inside his body, and they are thus intangibles he will never be able to "get his teeth into." But does that prevent him from accepting life and having its great blessings? Verily, the old philosopher-kings would have laughed in derision at the silly nonsense of our modern materialists who insist that they are "from Missouri" and must be showed before they will be "taken for a sucker." The study and application of Metaphysics requires greater brains, perseverance, courage and character than any business man has ever dreamed of giving to his "career."

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AFTER THE EXPERIENCES OF NEARLY A HALF CENTURY OF STUDY AND EFFORT IN METAPHYSICAL AND Occult fields I have come to the conclusion that there is one outstanding reason for the strange situation which permits millions of intelligent people to begin this Great Adventure--and yet sees but a handful who have become practical manipulators, skilled demonstrators of The Law. Why is it that millions begin to study these fascinating Laws but only a tiny few manage to achieve the efficiency, the power, the perfection we know is a necessary result of this study? Why are there so many Students of the Law but so few Masters of these Supreme Principles? The answer, I am convinced, lies in their lack of proper preparation for this Great Adventure.

In any material or "earthly" career people think nothing of spending many years in the task of learning all the necessary skills which will, someday, enable them to excel in their art, their music, their dance, their book writing. Tremendous sacrifices and all kinds of hardships are accepted, without complaint, as an inevitable part of "The Game." But not so in anything which has to do with Metaphysics or Occult laws. In this field the average student expects to excel, to achieve mastery, to control the forces of all Life and Destiny--in a few short weeks, or months at the most. Perhaps some may feel it could be a year or two before they have gained Spiritual Consciousness and are the Masters of their worlds. Here and there a rare soul plans to spend ten to twenty or even thirty years in preparing for this Great Adventure. And wonderful enough this is one of those extremely scarce people who DO become the Fulfillment of The Law, who DO achieve Mastery and the glorious Fulfillment of the Personal Destiny all of us hope for. And more wonderful still is the encouraging fact that this rare Student seldom needs to spend such a long time in reaching his goal. And why does he reach it so soon? The answer is that he spent the greater part of his time and energy getting ready to invoke the Law and manipulate its Powers. Like the careful craftsman, he got everything ready before he attempted to touch the Inner Worlds of Power and bring their majestic Currents of Love and Wisdom down into his mind and body and affairs.

We know that before the professional decorator applies the new and transforming colors to wood work, for example, he spends the greater part of his time preparing the wood to receive the new paint. The actual painting is sometimes but a matter of minutes; yet hours may have to be spent in cleaning, sanding, repairing the old wood to be painted.

Most Students overlook the psychological preparation that should always precede whatever studies he expects to make in the world of Spiritual Vibrations. If one is to set forth, over the seas, for a strange and unfamiliar land it would seem extremely wise and sensible to make whatever studies and investigations one could in order to more fully understand the new and strange conditions into which one must step from the boat. The truly wise person acquaints himself with the sea and the vessel that must carry him over it to the new country. Water is a completely different element than the one with which he is familiar as an earth dweller, a "land-lubber." It demands a different attitudes, different reactions, different adjustments than anything the solid earth has required of the neophyte sailor. And when he is assured that he has properly prepared his mind and emotions and physical constitution to meet, and successfully survive the long journey, the intelligent explorer will seek to learn all he can concerning the many unfamiliar things he will possibly encounter in the strange land he seeks. He will study its history, learn something of its people and their language; and he will certainly endeavor to learn all he can of their philosophy or religion. In other words, he will condition himself in every possible respect of this new experience so that he may not come to disaster or suffer loss in some foolish accident. And the truly wise explorer spends years in just preparing for the Great Adventure. All of his time and energy, all of his resources of experience and knowledge, all of every talent and skill he may possess, or develop, is devoted, dedicated, concentrated to his Great Goal. Whatever privations, sufferings, hardships and trials may come his way, all of this is as nothing to him when he thinks of the glorious day he will set sail for the unknown, the mysterious something that bids him on and on.

WHEN WE SET FORTH ON THE VAST SPIRITUAL SEAS AND SEEK THOSE COSMIC CONTINENTS OF PERfection and Power with the same consecrated preparation and purpose as our exemplary explorer---then there is no possibility of our failing to arrive victoriously at our Divine Kingdom.

It is not at all unusual to find those who have considered themselves Students of the Mysteries and have been so for twenty, thirty even forty years. But it is unusual to find any of these "Students" with more than a vague, general, uncertain idea of just what they have accomplished in all these years of "study." Few of them can give you a positive and convincing account of just what they expected from their studies in the first place. Most of them have very little to show for their "years of effort." There is actually little difference between them and the person who has never known or heard of Metaphysics. These people are theorists. They are great readers---not thinkers. They are surely not demonstrators of the Law. It is often discouraging to the beginning student to meet these theorists, for they obviously have so little to show for all of their books, lodge-memberships and certificates of class-instruction. These people are empty of all Spiritual Consciousness, even though their minds may be cram-jammed with overwhelming hordes of intellectual knowledge. Invariably these theoretical students expect to "get down to business" and "really apply" their vast knowledge, their book-learning. If they would apply their knowledge they would indeed make rapid strides and make exemplary demonstrators of The Law. May more of them do so!

There is the oft-told tale of the Guru who held his pupil under water until he was in danger of drowning. "What did you desire more than anything else" asked the Teacher when he let the boy come up for breath. "Air! More than anything I desired air!" The Guru nodded with understanding. "And when you desire God, as you desired air, you will find Him," the wise man told his pupil.

No one, no thing will ever, can ever, keep you from the fulfillment of your Divine Destiny---if you desire it, seek it, love it above all things else. This is a simple and rather moth-eaten statement. It is an axiom. And an axiom is defined as a Truth so self-evident as to be generally ignored.

It should be self-evident also that to achieve unusual things it is necessary to make unusual efforts. To acquire extraordinary abilities demands extraordinary study. The things which Metaphysics offers to us are truly extraordinary---but they are entirely available. Do you realize, you who seek the Keys to the Eternal Mysteries and the Cosmic Powers which they will unlock for you, do you realize that you must do things that are incomprehensible to the ordinary man? You are attempting to live now as Humanity will live ages in the future. There is an Occult Power which anyone, willing to pay the price, can acquire and through it lift, levitate his flesh form with the motive-force of his Will. This is, today, a miraculous power. But ages and ages in the dim future all of Mankind will be able to levitate their bodies with just as much ease and skill as we use airplanes to raise us now. There is a Supreme Law which will provide you with the means to fulfill any desire you are capable of having. Whatever you are able to imagine as possible IS possible---otherwise you could not see it as a possibility. Deep within you there is an ancient memory of your once Divine Unity with the Supreme Source of all Life and Being. That memory lies within your Soul. Now and then it speaks to you, so softly, so gently, and assures you that, with God, ALL things are possible. This memory assures you that error and ignorance are very wrong, that evil and sin and disaster are terrible violations of your God-given Immortal Nature. This delicate remembrance of days passes assures you that such things are not only wrong---but completely unnecessary. And in great dissatisfaction with the limitations and restriction of human-life, the awakening Soul seeks its former glory, its former God-hood. And if now you are REALLY seeking, then you may rejoice---for The Way has been travelled by many before you. And They have left behind footprints that will guide you, knowledge that will instruct you, love that will sustain you until you grow strong enough to support yourself in this Great Adventure. Rejoice, then!

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MOST OF THOSE WHO READ THIS FIRST LESSON WILL SKIP QUICKLY OVER THE PAGES LOOKING FOR the "juicy kernels of wisdom," something to "get their teeth into." They will be looking for technical information, for Occult Revelations; hoping for Cosmic Mysteries they can put into action immediately and "get results."

Perhaps we should have put this page in the front of the lesson and thereby spare the hasty reader the loss of his "valuable time." Yet lest he feel too disappointed, we will assure him that hidden within these innocent looking pages lies a Magic Key that will unlock the Cosmic Treasure-house to him and open wide the gates of Infinite and Immortal Consciousness---if he will USE the Key once he finds it. This is no mere play upon words, for there is a priceless Secret in this First Lesson. And the wise Student will read it not only once, but many times---for without the Power of this One Key he will strive in vain to use the abundance of technical information which we will gladly give him in the following Lessons.

We did not deliberately hide this Secret Key, or attempt in any way to conceal It. And when you have discovered It---you will be amazed that you could have missed It!

The other Lessons may be fascinating from a technical and scientific point of view. But this First Lesson comes to YOU with a special Blessing and Spiritual Significance that cannot be found in the rest of the Instruction---for it will not be possible to include it in the Technical Formulary to follow.

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In the pursuit of this Great Knowledge, and the projection of its powers into your own personal life and affairs, you will never be walking alone. For there is a Great Company Who has tread every step of The Way before you. Indeed, it is this glorious Company of Illumined Souls Who have made it possible for you to receive this Message. And whatever Illuminations you may achieve, whatever Realizations of the Supreme Nature of God-Within-You may arise in your Heart and Mind---all of these will be Gifts bestowed upon you from This Exalted Fraternity of Cosmic Personalities. This is the Angelic Host of Light and Love Which has filled the annals and records of every great religion and philosophy Mankind has known from the first uncertain ages of its creation. These are the Celestial Beings of those fabulous legends which make up the spiritual history of India and Egypt and Greece. THEY ARE NOT MYTHS. They are as real and actual, as living and literal as the sun in the heavens of noon-day. These are the Gods and Goddesses Who have walked and talked with men in every age of the Earth's great pilgrimage back to its own God-hood. Pity indeed shall be the vain earthling who sneers at the existence of such Cosmic Lords---for these Majestic Gods are the very Powers of Life within his feeble human body. Without Them this foolish mortal could draw not even a single breath of life-giving air. Without these Supreme Forces of Life, the Angels and Arch-Angels, the Cherubim and Seraphim, these Powers and Principalities of the Eternal Kingdoms of Infinite Cosmic Universes, without Their superhuman knowledge and authority we, the creatures of flesh and blood, we the helpless babes of Earth, we would simply not exist.

There is a magnificent Family of Celestial Kings and Queens. It is They Who make up the Invisible Government of our entire planetary system. Without Them the Earth could not hover in the heavens, surrounded by the Twelve Great Stars of our separate system. Without Them the very organs of our bodies would collapse into dust and chaos---for with every Breath we inhale Their Radiant Life and Substance and fill our fleshly organs with Consciousness and Vitality. Even the moment of death is possible only because of Their great Wisdom and Authority. (How horrible it would be if we could never release our Souls from a withered and wretchedly decayed human flesh form!)

It will require a separate Lesson to properly present and explain these Celestial Authorities and Their Earthly Messengers, The Great White Brotherhood of the Christs. But we must recognize Their Existence at once and walk now in the Light of Their Love.

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TODAY THERE IS A HUGE COLLECTION OF BOOKS PROFESSING TO CONTAIN "THE SECRETS OF THE UNIVERSE," AND PURPORTING TO EXPLAIN THE "COSMIC MYSTERIES OF THE ANCIENTS." And there is no end of the procession of speakers, authors, teachers and swamis claiming to possess this Magic Wisdom of the Ages--which they will share with you, Oh, so gladly!, for a price. With this priceless wisdom (which really can never be sold for money. You buy only the paper it is written on, plus a modest contribution to pay for the expenses of "The Master," including his new car and diamond ring.) With these un-buyable secrets you will have the power of the universe at your beck and call. Indeed, you will become a Master of life and all its many details in practically no time at all. Overnight, if you properly apply this "Secret Instruction," you can demonstrate a fortune (several fortunes if you wish. What's a mere million when the Cosmic Treasury has trillions of billions you can use--if you buy the secret keys.) With these wonder-working formulas fame will be at your door over night; eternal youth and beauty yours to have and hold by the time you reach the last "Key." And this last key is never, never, never sold. Perish such a vulgar thought! Indeed no. It is the gift of the swami to you (his favorite pupil, really) as a reward for buying his other wonderful courses promptly (20 percent discount for cash.) And so it goes and goes.

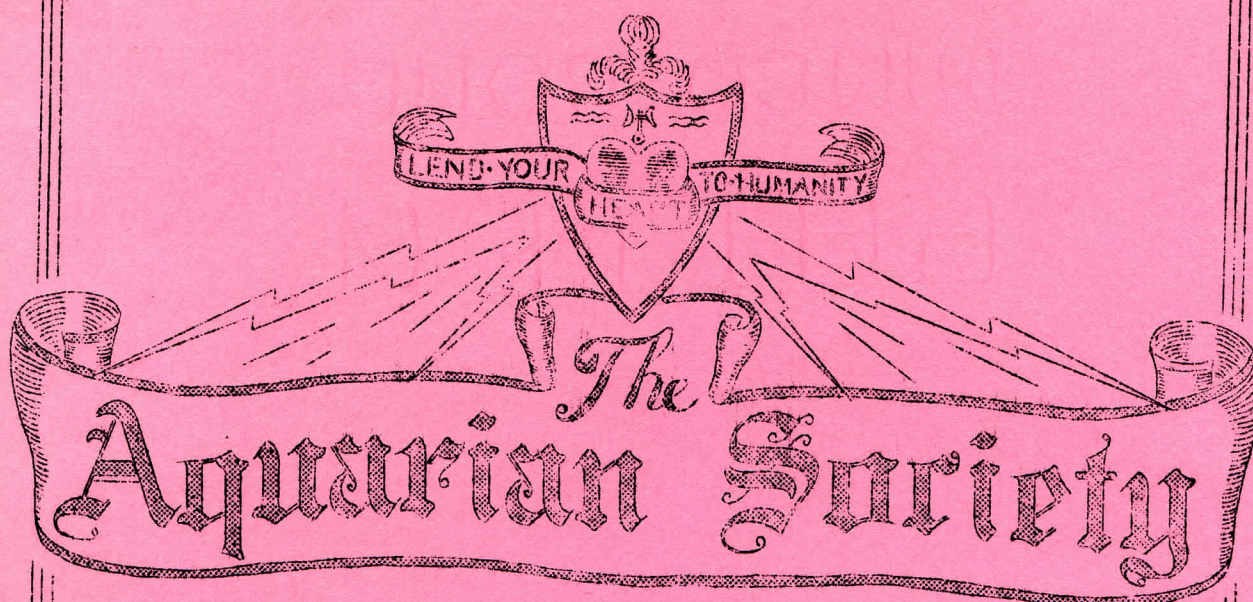
Small wonder then that the general public sneers at Metaphysics, Philosophy, Occultism and the Mystic Sciences. And no wonder at all that so many formerly interested thinkers are now bitter and disillusioned from their treatment at the hands of the streamlined medicine-men. These sincere people are not fools as the insensitive public may claim. Far from it! For deep in their Heart of hearts they KNOW there IS this Great Law of Cosmic Evolution and Immortal Consciousness. There must be Light before there can be the shadow. The real must exist before there can be a counterfeit. And somehow, somewhere, sometime the weary Pilgrim knows he WILL find The Light. He may be deluded and defrauded many times by the shadows--but he cannot resist perpetual longing deep within him for this Divine Wisdom. He intuitively knows he once possessed this Ancient Knowledge and used it to approach the very Throne of Heaven itself. There is something he must have, something he must possess again to still the eternal thirst of his Soul. And he will seek until he finds it. He will knock until it is opened unto him--and opened it will be, for there is a Magic Presence Who watches over these few faithful Pilgrims.

This Magic Presence is the Ancient Brotherhood of Love and Light Who have never lost Their contact with the Ancient Wisdom, Who have never become lost in the morass of the outer world of the senses. They are the Great Guardians Who will lead every weary Pilgrim back to the Fountain-Head of his Ancient Divinity wherewith he DID work the wonders the cunning psychologists, the crafty fly-by-night swamis assured him he could perform on himself and his affairs.

There IS this Supreme and Magical Power. It CAN be found. It MUST be found, and it must be used in every hour of your daily life---if you are to fulfill your own particular and personalized Destiny, the very reason for your creation, the one eternal purpose of your existence.

There are Those Great Teachers ready and willing to give us the Magic Knowledge that will make us like Them. There have always been the Great Way-Showers to Whom Mankind could always look for guidance and protection, for illumination and revelation. Those Supremely Divine Agencies of the Eternal Creator are present with us today. We need only to still the turmoil in our minds, to quiet the torment within our own human Souls, and then extend our hand, willingly and humbly, to those Great Examples those Supreme Demonstrators of The Changeless Laws of God, the Immortalized Christs Who have found Their Father-in-Heaven. Your own personal Father-Within awaits in constant readiness the hour of your Call to Him. Are you ready now to seek Him? Verily, indeed, is His yoke one of Light, His burdens those of ease, and eternal peace.

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THE AQUARIAN SOCIETY, organized in 1941, serves as the channel of public information and instruction, in groups, for those Students who are preparing to meet, and assist, THE WORLD TEACHER AND SPIRITUAL LEADER of the Aquarian Age.

The Aquarian Society is the outer public branch of the AQUARIAN AVATAR ASSEMBLY, an Association of Occultists and Christian Mystics which was organized at the beginning of this Century to prepare and instruct a body of advanced Chelas, or Disciples, to act as the forerunners in giving to the public some knowledge concerning the Ministry and Activity of the Aquarian Christ-Presence. This Great Personage, known in the Piscean Cycle as Christ-Jesus, will again guide and direct the progress and unfoldment of the superior Souls of the Race--during the first one hundred years of the Aquarian Cycle. Known as THE LORD-AQUARION, during His Aquarian Ministry, The Christ-Presence entered the Etheric Aura of our Earth on Christmas Day, 1941.**** He will remain here in active assistance and instruction to the advanced Souls, The Aquarians of all nations, until Christmas Day, 2011, exactly seventy years. The nature of His Ministry and what It means to each of us is explained and described in the Booklets of our AQUARIAN SCIENTIFIC SERIES, which present the Philosophy of Christ-Aquarion. Are YOU an AQUARIAN?? Do YOU wish to assist Christ-Jesus in His supreme effort to spare Mankind the horrors of the Third World War?? Then, learn of His Modern Message, Now.